

the church membership has grown to over 750 members. The church has recently completed its first structure, a 22,000 square foot multipurpose building in Northeast Fresno.

His involvement with community organizations include: West Fresno Ministerial Alliance, No Name Fellowship, Edison High School Parent Club, Clovis West Foundation, Evangel Home, Marjorie Mason Home, Angel Tree Project, Feed Fresno Food Give-A-Way, Prison Ministry, Salvation Army Bell Ringers, Poverello House, and the Rescue Mission.

His accomplishments have earned him a Portraits of Success Award, presented by KSEE-24 and Companies That Care in recognition of African-American History Month.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Reverend Chester McGensy for his commitment to improving the lives of the people in the community. I urge my colleagues to join me in wishing Reverend McGensy many more years of continued success.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE LOCK-BOX ACT OF 2001

SPEECH OF

HON. BARON P. HILL

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 13, 2001

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2 because I believe we should honor the commitment our government has made to protect America's seniors. We must guarantee that the money American workers pay into Social Security and Medicare, plus all of the interest those Trust Funds earn on this money, is used to keep Medicare and Social Security solvent. Not only will this bill help us shore up Social Security and Medicare, but taking these Trust Funds off-budget will allow us to pay down our national debt and keep our economy strong.

Congress should protect the retirement funds we have promised to military retirees in the same way we are protecting Medicare and Social Security. We must not spend or otherwise dedicate any funds that are currently building in the Military Retirement Trust Fund, the on-budget fund that pays the military pensions of hundreds of thousands of men and women who have served this country in uniform.

At the end of the year 2000, the balance of the Military Retirement Trust Fund was \$163 billion. Over the next 10 years, the Congressional Budget Office projects that more than \$100 billion additional dollars will be set aside in the fund.

Few people realize that the current the budget surplus estimate includes money already promised to military personnel for their retirement. We should not consider any of the dollars set aside for military retirees as part of this surplus. And we certainly should not spend any of the money in the Military Retirement Trust Fund for purposes other than paying the retirement benefits of our fighting men and women. While I support this bill, I hope my colleagues will do the right thing by passing similar legislation to protect the Military Retirement Trust Fund.

My colleague, GENE TAYLOR, and I have introduced a resolution calling on Congress to preserve the Military Retirement Trust Fund.

H. Res. 23, the Military Retirement Protection Resolution, says Congress should not use the Military Retirement Trust Fund money for anything but what it is intended for: paying military retirement benefits. That is the least we can do for the men and women who send so much of their lives defending our nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MRS. CHRISSIE WOOLCOCK COLLINS

HON. GARY A. CONDIT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. CONDIT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the late Mrs. Chrissie Woolcock Collins, the cofounder of one of the world's most famous medical information and identification devices, Medic Alert. Mrs. Collins was memorialized at a service on Saturday, January 27, 2001.

Medic Alert Foundation is the nation's leading emergency medical information and identification service, and one of the world's largest non-profit organizations, representing over 4 million members worldwide. The service has helped protect and save lives for nearly 45 years.

Mrs. Collins was born on July 30, 1906, in Douglas, Isle of Man, British Isles. She and her family immigrated to Turlock, California in 1912. She attended elementary schools in Turlock, and graduated from Turlock High School in 1923.

She earned a bachelor degree in music from the University of the Pacific in Stockton, California in 1928. In 1929 she married Marion Carter Collins whom she met in the eighth grade. Her husband went on to earn his medical degree and was a practicing physician in Turlock. Mrs. Collins was formerly employed as supervisor of music for the Turlock Elementary School System and as choral director for adult education in Turlock. She and Dr. Collins raised four children—Michael, Linda, Tom and Margaret.

In 1953 while on vacation her daughter, Linda, cut her finger. She was taken to the Lillian Collins Hospital in Turlock and attended to by her uncle, Dr. James Collins. He performed a skin test before injecting Linda with the full dose of tetanus antitoxin. Instantly, she went into anaphylactic shock, developed hives, had difficulty breathing and had to be sustained by an oxygen tent.

Dr. and Mrs. Collins took the lessons learned from their daughter's mishap and developed them into concepts that today characterized the first and most recognized emergency medical information service, Medic Alert Foundation. They realized that the need for immediate recognition of a medical condition by emergency medical personnel was a concern shared by millions of others. Together, they designed an emblem that has stood the test of time and remained virtually unchanged over the years. They used a version of the healing arts symbol, the caduceus, or staff of Aesculapius, flanked by the words 'Medic Alert' in red. A jeweler in San Francisco crafted the bracelet and engraved Linda's allergies to tetanus antitoxin, aspirin and sulfa drugs on the back. The original bracelet, now in the permanent collection of the Smithsonian Institution, signifies the importance of the Collins' ef-

forts and dedication. Today, the Medic Alert emblem is worn by more than 4 million members worldwide.

Her dedication and commitment to the community continued throughout the years. In addition to her participation in many civic and social organizations, she was honored by the Muir Trail Council of Girl Scouts, the Native Daughters of the Golden West, the Turlock Chamber of Commerce as well as many other organizations.

Her contributions and influence on Medic Alert Foundation are legendary. She is recognized not only as the organization's co-founder, but its conscience and spirit as well. From 1960 until her death, Mrs. Collins served on the board of directors for the Medic Alert Foundation.

It is an honor and a privilege to recognize the life and accomplishments of Mrs. Chrissie Collins. Through Mrs. Collins' continued efforts, Medic Alert Foundation is a worldwide organization that has served countless numbers of people. I am very proud that Medic Alert Foundation calls Turlock, California its home. Mrs. Collins' legacy will serve as an example for the community today, tomorrow and for our future.

FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ADJUSTMENT ACT—A DESCRIPTION

HON. JOEL HEFLEY

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, The Federal Deposit Insurance Adjustment Act indexes deposit insurance coverage to inflation every three years, as well as retroactively indexing back to 1980, thus raising the deposit insurance ceiling to approximately \$200,000.

Since 1980, FDIC deposit insurance has lost almost half of its value on an inflation-indexed basis. Today, deposit insurance is less than it was in 1974 when FDIC coverage was doubled to \$40,000.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Adjustment Act provides depositors with increased security while strengthening the safety and soundness of the banking system. It will help local communities by enabling depositors to keep more of their money in local banks, where it can be reinvested for community projects and local lending. Lastly, it will help small depositors, especially those on fixed incomes and small businesses, who need liquidity, or who are not in a position to take advantage of our stock market or to bear the risks inherent in the stock market.

STATEMENT TO ACCOMPANY THE AIRLINE MERGER MORATORIUM ACT

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, we are in the midst of a merger tsunami. Airline mergers are sweeping over us, and airline competition will be lost in the tide. Ten major airlines are

preparing to consolidate into three mega airlines controlling eighty-five percent of the U.S. commercial air transportation services.

A GAO report that I, along with my colleague JAMES OBERSTAR (MN), requested made clear in December that the proposed US Airways/United merger would trigger further consolidation of the industry, thereby reducing the industry to as few as three major carriers. That prediction has come true faster than any of us imagined. It appears that the mere possibility of a United/US Airways merger has prompted American Airlines to buy Trans World Airlines. Now press reports indicate that Delta Airlines, Continental Airlines and Northwest Airlines are also exploring a strategic alliance.

No one believes that these mergers are going to benefit consumers. We need a moratorium to determine how detrimental the impact of these mergers will be on the flying public.

Twenty-two years into deregulation, we have been left with fewer airlines, eroding passenger service, and gridlock. President Bush would have the opportunity during a moratorium to order a comprehensive review of how these mergers will adversely impact the public. Newly appointed U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta and U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft would have the necessary time to fully understand the problems, opportunities and constraints faced by new carriers.

A moratorium would provide the Bush administration with sufficient time to establish a new merger policy. These are enormously complex mergers where the public interest must be a factor in determining whether to allow them to go forward.

A moratorium would provide Congress an opportunity to request its own independent analysis of consolidation-related issues from the Transportation Research Board (TRB)—as Congress did in 1999 with respect to the DOT Competition Guidelines.

Congress could seek a TRB analysis of the many merger-related questions that remain open including the following:

What are the anticipated long-term impacts on air transportation system workers should these mergers be approved?

Is US Airways really a failing airline? If so, why in United paying a huge market premium to acquire it?

What is the best use of publicly owned take-off and landing time slots at Reagan National Airport?

What would be the national economic impacts from a labor strike among airline employees should these mergers consolidate the airline industry into three major carriers?

Generations of American taxpayers have poured their hard-earned tax dollars into building our nation's aviation infrastructure. These same taxpayers now find themselves at the mercy of the marketing departments of mega-carriers who can decide with impunity which regions of the country will live or die based on their access to air service.

We owe it to our constituents to take a hard look at how these mergers will further impact our communities.

CBC HEARING ON ELECTION REFORM

HON. CYNTHIA A. MCKINNEY

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, February 27, 2001

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, in 1857, the Supreme Court majority penned these infamous words: "[The black man has] no rights which the white man was bound to respect." The state of minority voting rights in America is in disorder, and I see a direct line between the debacle of 2000 and that shameful ruling in the Dred Scott case that found that blacks could not be citizens of the United States of America. From that decision and onto Plessy v. Ferguson in 1896, which struck down a federal law passed to enforce the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution, black Americans have known that the Supreme Court can, at its worst, become a reflection of the particular mutation of racism of the day.

We find ourselves today in a serious retrenchment on our country's commitment to mainstreaming into American life its former slaves. Affirmative action has been decimated. The Voting Rights Act has been bludgeoned, with its enforcement section due to expire in less than a decade, and the ability of minorities to elect their candidates of choice severely hampered by the Supreme Court in its rulings limiting the ability to create black-majority congressional districts and limiting the enforcement powers of the Department of Justice.

But no one, I'm certain, ever thought that the kind of voter suppression witnessed in the 2000 Presidential elections would ever be revisited upon America's minorities. If I had to give a State of the State of the Minority Vote, I would say that disfranchisement, not enfranchisement, is the order of the day. First, in 1978, the Burger Supreme Court turned the Fourteenth Amendment sideways by outlawing the use of racial quotas implemented for the purpose of including minorities in American life. A few years later, the Rehnquist Court stood the Fourteenth Amendment on its head by issuing its startling decision in *Shaw v. Reno* that completely changed the political map for American minorities. In the Court's ruling in *Johnson v. Miller*, Georgia's redistricting case I learned the hard way that Supreme Court justices, like other participants in our judiciary, are political actors first and foremost. I saw them dismantle my district and pave the way so that other black voters across the South could receive similar mistreatment.

The Voting Rights Act was passed to prohibit impediments to voting. The original focus was literacy tests, poll taxes, and direct threats and intimidation, along with redistricting, dual voter lists, location of polling places and eventually, voter registration, and purging of names from the voter list. However, innovation has never been lacking among those who want to suppress and deny minority voting rights. As we have seen in the debacle of the Year 2000 Presidential Elections, especially in Florida, minority voter suppression comes in many forms.

Take my State of Georgia. In the majority black precincts of my district, the chaos was so pervasive it could have been planned. In one precinct in my district, white police even blocked the entrance and refused free access

for voters because of an erroneous belief that I hadn't supported their pay raise. Too often there was only voter list. There were poorly trained elections workers, old equipment and overcrowded precincts right next to unused spacious accommodations. The frequent inability to handle high voter turnout is particularly disgraceful. Having to stand in line, sometimes outside in the rain and sometimes for as many as five hours, is outrageous and unconscionable and should not be tolerated anywhere, let alone the world's wealthiest nation. Yet that happened at many of my precincts in my district. It is also inexcusable to stand in line for hours, only to reach the table and be told that you are not at the correct voting place, that there is no time to get to the correct place and that you won't be able to vote. This also happened over and over again in my district.

Interestingly, we have Democrats in charge of our county, yes they vote to deny funds to allow a smooth voting process for the areas of the county now experiencing tremendous population growth. It shouldn't be surprising that this population growth is nearly all black. What makes this governing body's failure to appropriate the necessary funds to accommodate our new voters is so shocking that we had this same scenario in 1996, a Presidential election year and the year in which I faced reelection in a majority white district with well-financed white Democratic and Republican opposition. An overwhelming black turnout returned me to Congress despite the new district and in the process the county elected its first black sheriff and superior court clerk. They immediately voted to give the black newspaper the legal organ designation and a change in the county was evident. There should not have been a repeat of the chaos this year, but there was. I would suggest that perhaps the leaders responsible for appropriating funds for DeKalb County don't want large voter participation from the black residents on its south side. That's the only way I can explain the failure to fund adequately the elections office for the past four years. I would argue that, this is a subtle violation of the Voting Rights Act with the intent and effect of suppressing the minority vote.

Let me address other ways that we are disfranchised:

A recent study by the Southern Regional Council found that punchcard machines are disproportionately used by black voters in Georgia and disproportionately fail to register votes. Similar findings come from other states, yet many states are hard-pressed for funds for the infrastructure of democracy. If Congress fails to fund modernization of election equipment in the United States and better training and education of pollworkers and voters, we will send the message that it doesn't matter if votes aren't counted. A one-time Federal investment equal to less than one percent of the annual defense budget would give Americans the voting mechanics a modern democracy—let alone one of our status—demands. If President Bush truly wants to move beyond the controversy in Florida, his immediate step must be to support full federal support to states in modernizing equipment and procedures.

Why should people who have served their time and paid their debt to society be permanently disfranchised from America's body politic? Fourteen States bar criminal offenders